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# INSIGNIA

NO. 2

*A JOURNAL OF INQUIRY INTO THE HISTORY & MEMORABILIA OF SCOUTING*

## CAMP OWASIPPE

THE EARLY YEARS



**Troops LET'S GO! Scouts**

**Season 1922 opens June 26**

**CAMP JAMES E. WEST**  
South Shore & Calumet

**CAMP McDONALD**  
South West, Stock Yards & Central Mfg. District

**CAMP DAN BEARD**  
North Shore & West Side

*Under the Direction of Chicago Council, Boy Scouts of America, 203 So. Dearborn St. Telephone Wabash 9315*

BY: PAUL E. MYERS, JR



## AN EARLY TIME LINE ON OWASIPPE

- 1910 A group of Chicago businessmen visited Whitehall, MI to examine a choir camp being conducted on White Lake and to investigate possible Scout camp sites. The Whitehall Chamber of Commerce donated 40 acres of land on Crystal Lake.
- 1911 A small group of Scouts and workmen go to Crystal Lake, in order to brush out a site for a permanent camp, dig a well, erect a mess tent and a camp is established for Chicago Boy Scouts.
- 1912 June 28th, about 100 Scouts board a Goodrich Line steamer for the maiden voyage to the new Chicago camp on Crystal Lake. During the 1912 season, 723 Scouts and 51 leaders representing 63 different troops attended the Crystal Lake camp.
- 1913 A full service kitchen and mess hall was built from funds raised by The Chicago Board of Trade.  
*The 1914 & 1915 camp book refers only to the Chicago Boy Scout Summer Camp and Mr. White is listed as the Council President but the camp is not named.*
- 1915 The Council leased shoreline adjacent to the property it owns, effectively controlling 2/3 of the waterfront on Crystal Lake.  
*In the text of the 1915 booklet Chief O-wa-sip-e is referred to as a local Indian figure.*
- 1916 J.P. Fitch, Chief Campmaster, organized a group called "The Tribe of Owasippe" with an Indian theme for 2nd year campers.
- 1918 There was a tendency towards more troop camping & troops were encouraged to come to camp with their own leadership.  
*Owasippe is the name of the camp in the Campers' Manual. It states in this manual that the camp has been called Owasippe since 1913.*
- 1919-20 Additional camps were being constructed on Crystal Lake to accommodate Chicago's growing Scout population.
- 1921 Camp Owasippe was renamed Camp Dan Beard. Camp James E. West and Camp McDonald were opened.  
*Camp McDonald was named for L.L. McDonald an early Chicago Scout Executive who became BSA National Director of Camping.*
- 1922 A camp was developed on Silver Creek for canoe trips down the river to White Lake.
- 1925 Camp Blackhawk and Camp Pioneer were opened on Big Blue Lake.
- 1926 Camp Checaugau on Big Blue Lake and Camp Belnap on Lake Obijwa were opened.
- 1928 Camp Hiawatha Beach on Big Blue Lake was open for older campers. 1st Class Scouts, 15 years or older who have been in an organized camp a minimum of 2 weeks were eligible to attend.  
*Scouts were divided into Waterfront, Indian Lore, Forester's and Pioneers. Each group lived in a distinctive type of camp. The Pioneers lived in Adirondack shacks; the Forester's in tree houses; the Indians in tepees and the waterfront men in beach tents. It is believed this program was later known as Backwoods Camp.*
- In 1928 special Scout trains were established by the Pere Marquette RR and Scouts were transported to camp aboard trains.
- 1930 The name *A. Stamford White*, Owasippe Scout Camps appeared in promotional material and was used throughout the 1930's.  
In 1930, Camps Beard, Belnap, Blackhawk, Checaugau, McDonald & West were in operation.
- 1932 Camp Belnap was moved from its Lake Ojibwa site to what had earlier been called Hiawatha Beach.  
*Belnap usually operated for one- two week period for Douglas Division Scouts. The camp is believed to have been used for other purposes during other weeks and was known by the names: Backwoods Camp, Sailors Cove & Hiawatha Beach.*
- 1933 Because of the economic depression, only camps Belnap, Beard, McDonald & West were in operation.  
In 1933 Wilderness Troop Camp was opened for troops who could cook their own meals and administer their own program.
- 1934 Winter Camp was open Christmas week for Star rank & above, Sea Scouts or 15 year old Arrowmen.
- 1935 Camp Belnap, Beard, Stuart, West & Wilderness were in operation and would remain active through 1948.  
*Camp McDonald's name was changed to Camp Stuart to honor R. Douglas Stuart, Chicago Council President in the early 1930's.*
- 1936 Fire destroyed the mess hall, boiler room and showers at Camp Checaugau. (7/23/1936).  
*The dining hall at Camp Checaugau was established on what had previously been a private hotel. After the fire the camp was not reopened.*
- 1937 Camp Pioneer was opened on Big Blue Lake and run as a troop camp with the commissary furnished.  
In 1937 a Sea Scout period was established at Big Blue Lake for the 4th camp period.
- 1943-45 Wartime necessitates Scouts bringing their food ration booklets and metal cookware to camp.
- 1947 Hiawatha Beach on the west end of Big Blue Lake was reopened for experienced lone troop camping.  
Spring Camp was open spring vacation week. 120 boys planted 12,000 Christmas trees. This camp ran through 1951.
- 1948 Camp Belnap was closed and Douglas Division Scouts were integrated into local geographic districts.
- 1949 Beard, Blackhawk, Stuart & West were open as full service camps. Hiawatha Beach & Wilderness were lone troop camps
- 1950 Camp Pioneer was available along with Hiawatha Beach as a troop camp.
- 1961 Camp Owasippe celebrated its 50th anniversary.

*All dates are from original research using what is believed to be the most authoritative records. Information regarding events in 1919 which are referred to in a 1920 or 1921 publication are given credence over material covering the same event published later. Contradictory statements can be found in several of the Campers' Manuals. A 1918 & 1920 manual states that Camp Owasippe was established in 1912. In a 1923 & 1925 manual it is stated "the camp is as old as Scouting itself, in 1910 D.W. Pollard established the camp". It is stated that the early camp was named for the late A. Stamford White in 1911, but White a prominent Chicago architect was the Chicago Council President from 1910 through 1914. I've had difficulty determining exactly when the name Camp Owasippe was first used, my research points towards a date of about 1916-1918.*

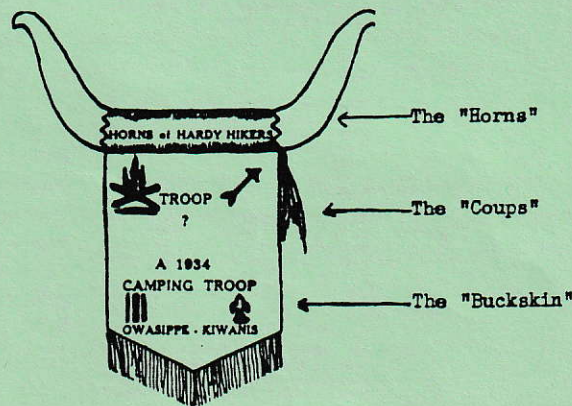
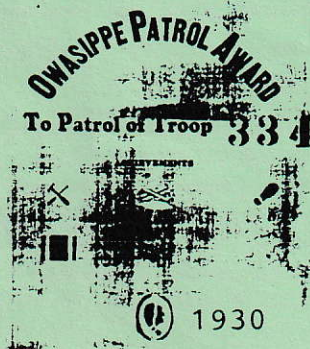


*This pamphlet is not intended to tell the history of Owaspippe. It is published to provide an overview and to describe historical background and miscellaneous facts about the camp and its programs during the early years. Programs like belt stencil recognition, camp badge qualifications, and areas of specialization in camp were used throughout the country. An understanding of these programs at Owaspippe can help explain programs and practices nationwide.*

### **HONORS & ACHIEVEMENT AT OWASIPPE**

Camper recognition can be traced to 1920, as quoted in the Campers' Manual, "A Satisfactory Camper is one who performs every duty thoroughly and cheerfully". "An Honor Camper is more than satisfactory, in that the camp benefits from his presence...". A printed red ribbon exists from 1920 for the Satisfactory Camper and it is believed that a ribbon of another color exists for the Honor Camper. There is no mention of this type of individual recognition in the 1918 or 1919 manual. In 1923 a point system was developed for recognition. A Scout earning 100 points would be recognized as an Owaspippe Camper and would receive a numeral representing the year at camp. This numeral was worn on a neckerchief. A Scout earning 125 points would be an Honor Camper and was awarded the Owaspippe "O". 1923 is the earliest documentation for the awarding of numerals and "O"'s. The Owaspippe "O" was to be worn on a neckerchief or on the camp skull cap. Each camp had their own distinctive colored skull cap; Beard-Green & White, McDonald-Green & Blue, West-Green & Red. In the mid 1920's, a program of achievement represented by belt stencils was available (see section reproduced from the 1926 Campers Manual). Scouts could earn belt stencils at Owaspippe through the 1930's. In the late 1920's specialized areas of achievement were available; Owaspippe Canoeist, Chief (later Indian lore), Handicrafter, Hiker, Naturalist & Woodcrafter. Achievement in these program areas was originally recognized by colored felt borders around the Owaspippe "O". Over the years the names of the program areas were changed and later embroidered segments were developed naming the area of specialization. Aquatic, Craft, Explorer, Hiking & Nature. The requirements and point system changed over the years but the Owaspippe "O" remained the symbol of the Owaspippe Honor Camper until the round green twill badge of 1940. The year numerals continued to be earned. The badge photo pages will give you an overview of the individual recognition system.

Patrols and Troops could receive recognition for achievement. As early as 1919, ribbons were awarded to tents or patrols for passing or failing inspection. These ribbons were displayed on a tent pole during the period at camp. Four colors exist, red for satisfactory, blue for the winning of any special competitive event, yellow for when a particularly "bonehead" stunt occurred and black for when the tent failed to pass inspection. From at least 1930 through 1939, and possibly later, Patrols & Troops were recognition by a form of banners or "buckskins" (actually canvas). The 1934 program was called the "Hardy Hiker" which recognized troops for increased attendance and participation in camp. The Troop received the buckskin when 2/3 as many Scouts registered for camp as had been registered the previous year. At camp the buckskin was stenciled for achievement in the program areas. When 25% of the troops' membership attended camp, the troop was awarded "horns" and the buckskin was displayed suspended from the horns. After camp when all figures were compiled, troops were awarded "coups" as follows. Troops with 25% in camp received a red feather; 25% to 50% received a red and white feather cluster; troops with 50% or more in camp got the red, white & blue feather cluster. Troops attending camp with or without leadership were eligible to participate. Although, Troops attending with leadership received a special recognition, usually a celluloid button, which was given each Scout as his camp registration was paid. Patrol & Troop camp promotion and participation themes changed yearly. I.E.. 1935 used a Paul Bunyan's theme, 1936 used a Gold Rush theme etc.



Patrol & Troop award "buckskins" are large pieces of canvas usually measuring 15" x 18" or larger



**TOTEM BELT**—On the plan as used for some years at Camp Dan Beard and other camps, campers will have the right to have appropriate symbols painted on their scout belts indicating their various achievements at camp. Every camper will be able to earn several of these awards.



1. The first mark given will be a large Roman Numeral in Black, indicating the number of seasons attended camp.

Vouched for.....Date.....

26

2. This will be followed by a small Arabic Numeral in Black, indicating the year.

Vouched for.....Date.....

3. The third mark will indicate the individual camp attended as, West, McDonald, Dan Beard, Cheaugus, Blackhawk or Bel-nap. Each camp has its own design.

Vouched for.....Date.....



4. An Owasippe Honor Camper will rate an Orange Indian Head with Chief's War Bonnet. Black bars will be added for successive years.

Vouched for.....Date.....



5. Members of the Order of the Arrow will be indicated by a Red Arrow pointing in a special direction indicating the degree attained as first or second.

Vouched for.....Date.....



11. Tent outlined with the same Arabic Numerals on either side indicating the year; as "26" in Orange color.

Vouched for.....Date.....



7. White Indian Teepee is a special marker given to the junior leader, who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities during the period (to be judged by senior camp staff.)

Vouched for.....Date.....



8. Blue Swastika will be given to any Scout who shows outstanding record for volunteer service. This award is given only by camp director or assistant in conference with senior staff.

Vouched for.....Date.....



9. A Broken Red Bar will be given for having served as Officer of the Day.

Vouched for.....Date.....



10. A Broken White Bar will be given for having served as Officer of the Guard.

Vouched for.....Date.....



11. White Life Preserver with Red marks will be given to Scouts who qualify in life saving tests and have been members of the life guard. Must be recommended by swimming instructor.

Vouched for.....Date.....



12. White Wall Tent with Black outline will be given to Scouts of troop which has won honor flag for inspection most times during period.

Vouched for.....Date.....



13. White Whale, Red Whale, Blue Whale given to Scouts who have passed swimming tests as Beginners, Swimmers, and Expert Swimmers as recognized by regulation standards. Must be recommended by swimming instructor.

Vouched for.....Date.....



14. Red Axe to be given for four hours in one period of special handcraft, carpentry or conservation work involving skilled work with the axe, such as notching logs, preparing supports, etc., for bridges, rustic furniture, tent rails, etc.

Vouched for.....Date.....



15. Green Pine Tree given only for special conservation work at Spring camp.

Vouched for.....Date.....



16. Blue Megaphone given to Scouts selected cheer leaders based on performance, ability, popularity, and recognition of staff and campers.



17. Yellow Horn given for taking outstanding part in entertaining campers.

Vouched for.....Date.....



18. Yellow Second Class Pin given for completing second class tests while at camp.

Vouched for.....Date.....



19. Yellow First Class Pin given for completing first class tests while at camp.

Vouched for.....Date.....



20. Blue Arrowhead given for completing three merit badges in one period at camp.

Vouched for.....Date.....



21. Yellow Star given when a Scout has passed any five merit badges while at camp.

Vouched for.....Date.....



22. White Anchor given for Scouts completing the boatmanship test (recommended by camp boatman.)

Vouched for.....Date.....



23. White, Red and Blue Bird given for three degrees of bird study.

Vouched for.....Date.....



24. White, Red and Blue Butterfly given for three degrees in study of insect life.

Vouched for.....Date.....



25. White, Red and Blue Flower given for three degrees in study of wild flowers.

Vouched for.....Date.....



26. White, Red and Blue Leaf given for three degrees in tree study.

Vouched for.....Date.....



27. Handicraft Design in White, Red and Blue to be given for completing respectively 1st, 2nd and 3rd degrees in special handicraft work such as leather-designing, rope-weaving, basketry, knife work, etc.

Vouched for.....Date.....



28. Fire Axe and Pail given to Scouts who have actually and intelligibly taken part in fighting a real forest fire while at camp.

Vouched for.....Date.....



29. Blue Hiker's Boot with VX given to Scouts completing hiking merit badge while at camp.

Vouched for.....Date.....



30. Red Hiker's Boot given for Scouts going on an organized, overnight hike with hikemaster. Hiking distance must be not less than 20 miles.

Vouched for.....Date.....



31. Trail Marker's Sign in Red given to Scouts who set up twelve signs on approved trails. Must be legible, useful and done without destruction to live vegetation.

Vouched for.....Date.....



32. White Eagle Feather given for winning first place in camp athletics, swimming meet or scoutcraft meet. Recommended by activities director.

Vouched for.....Date.....



33. Blue and Red Mottled Fool's Stick given for Scouts taking an outstanding part in a circus, minstrel show or other camp entertainment recognized by directors.



34. Yellow Trophy Cup given to Scouts at table winning the most table honors per period.

Vouched for.....Date.....



35. Two Crossed Frying Pans in Black given to Scout who has successfully cooked four outdoor meals for others.

Vouched for.....Date.....



36. Red Fire-by-Friction Drill given to any Scout who has made fire-by-friction out of native materials collected by himself while at camp.

Vouched for.....Date.....



37. Red Campfire given to Scout for laying six kinds of campfires, making drawing of same and giving description in his camper's manual. This is to include the making and use of a fuststick.

Vouched for.....Date.....



38. White Council Fire with Two Scouts given for an exceptional camp song, ceremonial, campfire program, game or the like devised and presented by the Scout or Scouts.

Vouched for.....Date.....



19. Owasippe Camper—Those Scouts whose record at camp is such that they have done all that is expected of a camper in spirit, activities, advancement and service will receive their numerals "26" as an Owasippe Camper. These honors will be awarded by joint conference of the Junior and Senior staff.

Vouched for.....Date.....



40. Honor Camper—Those campers who have not only borne their full share of the camp responsibilities but have also made a definite contribution to the welfare and the spirit of the camp and have displayed at all times a spirit of helpfulness, will receive the Owasippe "O" of the Honor Camper. Scouts who have received the Owasippe "O" in previous year will receive a Bar to put underneath their "O" to indicate their additional year of award. Honor Camper awards will be determined by the Senior Council.

Vouched for.....Date.....



41. Order of the Arrow—Honor Campers who have been outstanding, not only in their spirit of cheerfulness and service, but have exhibited a definite leadership of their fellows at camp will be elected to candidacy in the Camp Honor Society, The Order of The Arrow, by the Senior Council.

Vouched for.....Date.....

*Belt stencils, also sometimes known as "scalps" were a popular theme throughout the 1920's and 30's. Most camps used the program for instant recognition. Region 7 published a general booklet offering 54 varieties. The Tulsa Rubber Stamp Co and other commercial businesses offered rubber stamps or punched cardboard stencils.*





## THE CAMP HONORS

Every Scout attending Owaspispe looks forward to receiving a CAMP NUMERAL (1939) at the Award Ceremony held on the last Friday night of each period. Proudly he has it sewn on his neckerchief . . . you can tell an Owaspispe old timer by the numeral years sewn on his neckerchief.

But the proudest Scout is the one who earns the OWASPISPE "O" . . . the coveted camp letter awarded only at Owaspispe.

There are many camp subjects from which a Scout may choose.

"O's" are awarded in Aquatic, Handicraft, Hiking, Nature and Indian Lore.

The first "O" awarded is an Indian head attractively embroidered on a cloth background . . . old Owaspispe, himself, being the subject. It is worn on the rear flap of the neckerchief. Only one "O" is ever presented or worn.

There is also awarded a colored Honor Border which is placed in back of the original "O". The color of the Honor Border designates the particular "O" earned. After a Scout has received his first "O",

and earns the "O" in a new field he receives an Honor Border for that color. When a Scout has earned all four "O's", his completed "O" resembles the third illustration on page two. When there are gold stars worn on top of one or more of the Honor Borders, it shows that the Scout has earned an Advanced "O" in that subject. The "O" in Indian Lore (The Owaspispe Chief) is indicated by a star placed under Owaspispe's picture.

The Scout whose "O" is surrounded by the four vari-colored "Honor Borders" each of which bears a gold star is an Old-Timer who has done things and been places all honor to him! That, together with the Eagle Badge and membership in the Order of the Arrow is a sign of a good Scout.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT THE "O"

The camp numerals are awarded to those who qualify only for those requirements as well as to all who earn an "O" during the particular season. The numeral (or numerals) should be worn under the "O".

"O's" and numerals are awarded free of charge, and may be replaced as worn out at the camp Trading Post or at the Chicago Council Office. (Duplicate "O" costs 10¢; Stars, 15¢ each; Borders, 5¢ each; numerals, 5¢ each.)

The camps will keep a permanent record of "O" achievements. Parts of incomplete "O's" will be recorded for credit in later periods or seasons.

When a Scout has previously passed all or a greater part of the tests listed as requirements for the various "O's", the particular camp department is authorized to substitute some camp experience of equivalent value in the same field of interest.

## THE ORDER OF THE ARROW

Awarded in camp to Scouts who in the judgment of their Troop have been shown a spirit of cheerful service to the camp and their Troop and who have exemplified to a high degree the Scout Oath and Law in their daily camp life.

## HOW TO EARN THE HONORS

THE CAMP NUMERAL REQUIREMENTS: You achieve the camp numeral by qualifying in advancement, camp citizenship service and in one phase of nature study, as told below:

### 1. Advancement:

A. If you are a Tenderfoot or Second Class Scout you must pass four of the following outdoor tests:

- Second Class—Fire Building
- Second Class—Tracking
- Second Class—Scout Pace
- Second Class—Use of Knife and Hatchet
- First Class—Cooking
- First and Second Class—Swim 50 yards
- First Class—14 mile hike
- First Class—Map making
- First Class—Tree repair and nature.

If you are a Tenderfoot Scout you must complete Second Class rank before going ahead with First Class requirements.

- B. If you are a Second Class Scout and have previously passed 5 or more of the First Class requirements, you will be expected to pass all unfinished First Class requirements listed.
- C. If you are a First Class Scout . . . complete one camp merit badge in any one period.

Certified by . . . Scoutmaster's signature

### 2. Citizenship

Be a good Scout citizen. This is demonstrated by your having performed your share of the daily Camp, Troop and Patrol duties and activities . . . willingly and cheerfully.

Certified by . . . Scoutmaster's signature

### 3. Camp Service

Serve for a period of at least two hours in some project for the betterment of the Camp. This must be approved in advance and should be other than a routine daily duty.

Certified by . . . Resident staffman

4. Pass at least one of the requirements listed under the Owaspispe Naturalist "O".

Bearer has passed requirement No. . . .

Certified by . . . Naturalist

## THE OWASPISPE "O" REQUIREMENTS

**AQUATIC "O"** (Designated by Blue Honor Border)  
(Open to First Class Scouts)

To achieve the Aquatic "O" you must:

1. Show proper spirit of cooperation in the maintenance of the water front, having correct knowledge of Safety, care and usage of Aquatic equipment.

Certified by . . .

2. Complete the following merit badges:

Swimming Merit Badge.

Certified by . . .

Rowing Merit Badge.

Certified by . . .

Canoing Merit Badge.

Certified by . . .

3. Serve satisfactorily as a member of a War Canoe crew.

NOTE: All certifications must be by Aquatic Director or Assistant Aquatic Director.

## HANDICRAFTER'S "O"

(Designated by Orange Honor Border)  
(Open to Second Class or over.)

To achieve the Handicrafter's "O" you must:

1. Show proper spirit of cooperation in use and care of all equipment and the maintenance of the Handicraft Lodge, sharing in the clean-up at the end of the daily period.

Certified by . . .

2. Must complete First Class Handicraft.

Certified by . . .

3. Complete two of the following Merit Badges:

a. Woodcarving.

Certified by . . .

b. Leathercraft.

Certified by . . .

c. Metal work.

Certified by . . .

d. Book binding.

Certified by . . .

e. Carpentry.

Certified by . . .

f. Woodwork.

Certified by . . .

g. Other Craft Merit Badge.

Certified by . . .

NOTE: All certifications must be by Crafts Director.

## NATURALIST "O"

(Designated by a Green Honor Border)  
(Open to Second Class Scouts)

In order to achieve the Naturalist's "O", you must complete the following requirements:

1. Show proper spirit of cooperation in the maintenance of the Nature Trails, Museum and Turtle Pond.

Certified by . . .

2. Point out three constellations while on a star hike.

3. Make an acceptable contribution to the Nature Lodge, Trails or Turtle Pond.

Certified by . . .

4. Complete any two of the following:

a. Know and identify 4 kinds of turtles, one of which is edible.

b. Collect and burn 30 jack pine worms.

c. Collect and burn 5 tent caterpillar's nests.

d. Take and present two conservation photographs.

e. Take part in tree planting Expedition.

f. Take part in Expeditions on the Experimental Lab, or on the Fire breaks.

g. Make and post conservation signs approved by the Naturalist.

h. Make six drawings of leaves and one plaster cast or four ink prints.

i. Make acceptable plaster cast of wild bird or animal track.

5. Pass at least one requirement of the Bird Study Merit Badge.

Certified by . . .

6. Complete during stay at camp this summer any one of the following Merit Badges:

Astronomy

Forestry

Insect Life

Reptile Study

Botany

Conservation

Grasses

Rocks and Minerals or

Nature Merit badge

## OWASPISPE CHIEF

(Designated by a Gold Star placed beneath the Owaspispe facsimile on the "O".)  
(Open to second year campers or Senior Scouts or members of the Order of the Arrow.)

In order to achieve the Owaspispe Chief's "O", you must complete the following requirements:

1. Pass Indian Lore Merit Badge.

Certified by . . .

2. Serve as assistant to Indian Lore instructor for eight hours.

- a) Prepare for and instruct Indian Lore group in your specialty.

- b) Make satisfactory article of Indian equipment for your local chapter of the Order of the Arrow. Approved in advance by Honor's Master

Certified by . . .

NOTE: All certifications must be made by the Indian Lore instructor appointed by the Camp Director.

There are additional requirements for Advanced achievement in Aquatics, Handicraft, Hiker & Naturalist.

Because of space limitations they are not listed. The idea was that after earning the Honor Border, a Scout could continue in his field and when the second set of requirements was completed he would be recognized by a gold star placed on the colored Honor Border.

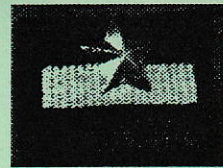
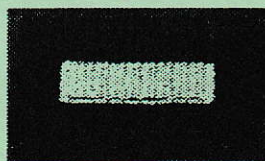
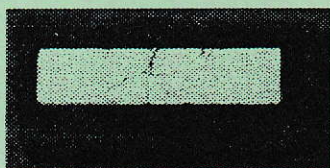




Earliest known camper recognition 1920 red ribbon for Satisfactory Camper



Early 1920's felt cut out & stitched Honor Camper "O's".  
Note stitching variations. One (1925) is believed to be screenprinted.



Repeat Honor bars, campers would be awarded only 1 "O" but would receive bars & stars for repeat honors. Earliest bar is gold screenprint on black felt, later varieties are embroidered gold on black felt.



Mid 1920's Chief design. Minor varieties in stitching exists.  
Badge on right is shown with 4 different colored borders

1928-1939 Oval design. Badge on right without hair braid can be dated to 1936. The year numeral was to be sewn into the blank area.

Badges from this era were worn on "the camp" neckerchief. I have found badges on a black neckerchief with red details. It is unknown if this was the camp neckerchief or if there are different colored neckerchiefs for the different camps. Campers manuals from 1923-39 show the chief design badge. However, the 1928 camp promotion manual shows the change to the oval design.

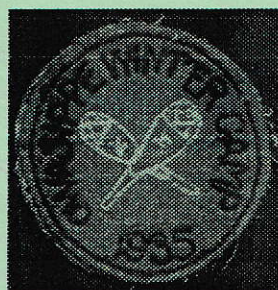
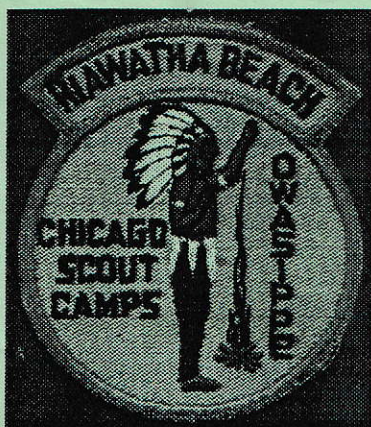
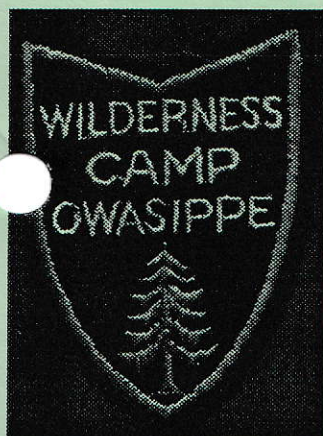


1940-1957 camp badges. These badges no longer reflect Honor Camper status and were available for sale. The two badges on the left are on dark green cloth while the two on the right are on medium green cloth.

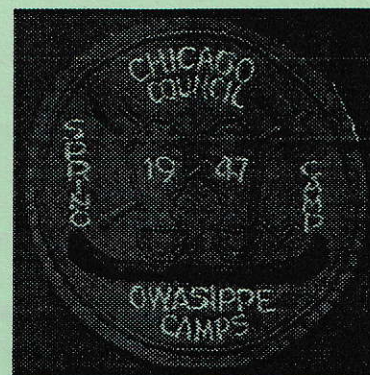


2 3/8" Staff pocket badge  
3" Staff neckerchief badge  
Staff badge have red embroidered faces with a red embroidered cut edge border





Dated winter camp badges exist for 1934, 35, 46 thru 1950.  
An undated felt badge also exists.

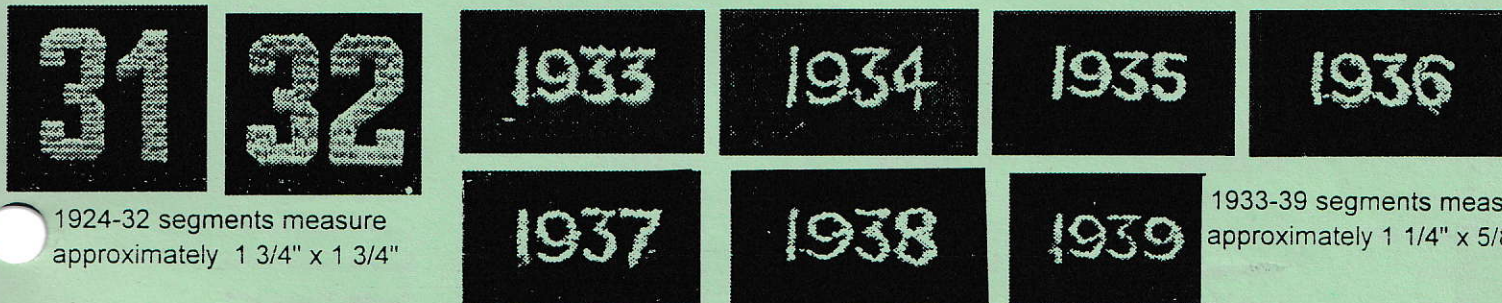


Spring Camp badges exist with dates 1947-1951

Camp Wilderness & Hiawatha Beach are the only known subcamp badges.  
Hiawatha Beach is believed to be a troop issue.



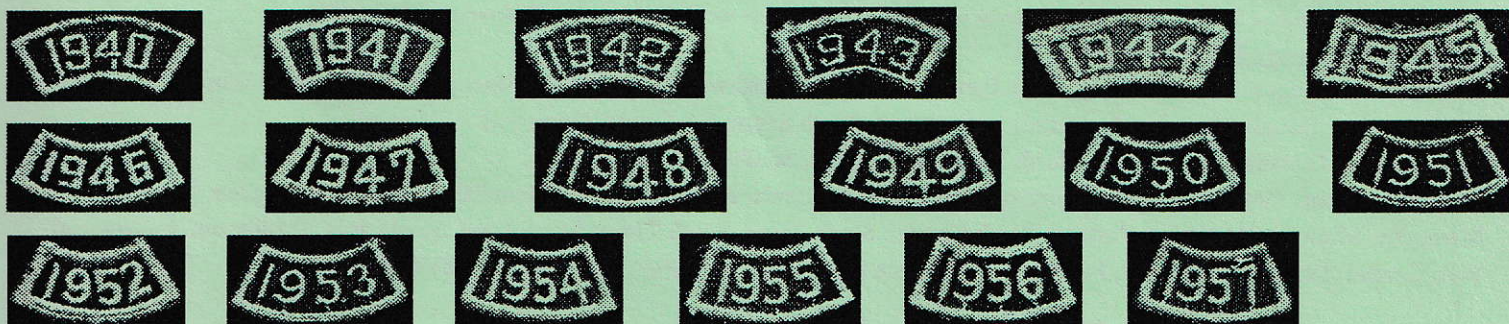
1924 is a gold felt# on black felt, the known 1925 & 26's are black#'s on gold felt, 25 is screenprinted.



1924-32 segments measure approximately 1 3/4" x 1 3/4"

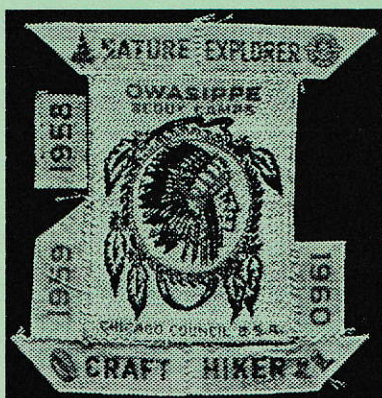
1933-39 segments measure approximately 1 1/4" x 5/8"

1927-1939 are gold embroidered on black felt. The gold sometimes turns to silver when laundered.



Year numerals had to be earned and indicated "Satisfactory Camper" status.

1942 1948 & Nature segments exist in top & bottom designs.





## CHICAGO TROOPS ATTEND CAMPS BY DISTRICTS

In the earliest years, while the Owasippe camps were being constructed, individual districts developed sites and ran programs for summer camp. Chicago districts were as large or larger than an average council and in most cases were comprised of whole neighborhoods. The paid professional Field Executive would serve as Camp Director and other district officers served as camp staff. Some of these camps operated for several years prior to space being made at Owasippe (see other early Chicago camps). Scouters are not fond of change and after camping at one place for several years it may have been difficult to lure units to a new camp. I.E. Camp Checaugau was operated for several years near Palatine, IL, when a camp was developed for the Northwest District at Owasippe, it was also named Camp Checaugau. To bring these units and districts to Owasippe it was necessary to develop camps which the districts would accept as their own. Thus, each camp was promoted to individual districts as "their own". In cases where more than 1 district used a camp, the periods were staggered so that the camp would be occupied by boys from one district during a weekly period. With the development of full service camps with mess halls and program areas, district level volunteers were less needed but the practice of the Executive running the camp in which boys from his district would attend continued into the 1930's. During this era the professional Executive had much more contact with youth and the term Chief was often affectionately used to refer to the paid professional, as in Chief Camp Director. During the 1930's, because of the depression, the districts were consolidated and troops did not go to camp by districts. However, the practice was reinstated in the 1940's. Marquette District ran their own district camp at Camp Wilderness, as late as 1950 & 1951 where they provided their own food and program leadership.

	<u>1922-1923</u>	<u>1925</u>	<u>1926</u>	<u>1930-1934</u>
Dan Beard	North Shore/West Side	North Shore	West Side	North Shore
McDonald	Central Mfg. South West, Stockyard	South Shore	South Shore/Southwest	South Central/Southwest
West	South Shore/Calumet	Stockyard/Central Mfg.	South Shore/Calumet	South Shore/Calumet
Belnap	not open	not open	Douglas Division	Douglas Division
Blackhawk	not open	West Side	North Shore	West Side
Checaugau	not open	not open	Northwest	Northwest

*In 1949 the camps went back to serving units by districts.*

	<u>1st Period</u>	<u>2nd Period</u>	<u>3rd Period</u>	<u>4th Period</u>
Beard	Lakeview & Trailblazer	Arrowhead	Indian Boundary	Portage/Iroquois
Blackhawk	Midwest	South Central	Austin	Cicero/West Central
Stuart	Stockyard/Tri Ridge	Northwest/Burr Oak	Northwest	Southtown/Southwest
West	South Shore	Greater Roseland/Forest*	Lakeshore	Calumet/Marquette**

Hiawatha Beach and Wilderness were open as troop camps without regard of district affiliation.

\*Forest District camped at Blackhawk in 1950, 3rd period w/Austin. \*\*Marquette ran district camps at Wilderness in 1950 & 1951.

### A listing of Chicago Districts by era's:

1919-Calumet, Central Manufacturing, Hyde Park, North Shore, Northwest, South Shore, Stockyards, Westside & Woodlawn.

1926-Calumet, Douglas Division, Northshore, Northwest, South Shore, Southwest, Northwest & Westside.

1935-Douglas Division, North Shore, North West, South Shore, Southwest, Westside

1949-Arrowhead, Austin, Burr Oak, Calumet, Cicero, Forest, Greater Roseland, Indian Boundary, Iroquois, Lakeshore, Lakeview, Marquette, Midwest, Northwest, Portage, South Central, South Shore, South Town, South West, Stockyards, Trailblazer, Tri Ridge & West Central. 1958-ADD Frontier, Ft. Dearborn, Lincoln Park, Pathfinder, Pioneer Trails. ~~DELETE~~-West Central.

## OTHER EARLY CHICAGO CAMPS

**Camp Checaugau**-1918-1925 for the Northwest district. Located 31 miles N.W. of Chicago near Palatine, IL.

**Camp Keesus**-1911-1920 for the Hyde Park & Woodlawn Districts. Located on Lake Michigan, 9 miles south of Grand Haven, MI.

**Camp Ken Jockety**-1920 for the Southwest District. Located 35 miles N.W. of Chicago on Diamond Lake, in Lake County, IL.

**Camp Shabbona**-Pre-1920 for the West Side District. Located on the Des Plaines river.

**Camp Yotanka**-1919-1922 for Calumet, Central Manufacturing & Stockyards Districts. Located on Cedar Lake, IN.

**Camp Wabash**-1925 for Douglas Division. Located on Rowe Lake 14 miles south of Benton Harbor, MI.

*It is possible that there are other unknown camps from before the 1926 Owasippe expansion and it is possible that camps were operated after 1926 by districts that didn't make the long trip to Owasippe. It is probable that some of the camps above were in operation longer than noted.*

**Camp Kiwanis**-Opened 1934. Available for 1 week summer camping and weekend trips. Open as a summer camp through the 1960's.

**Camp Fort Dearborn**-A weekend camp in the near north Chicago Forest Preserves. (Irving Park Blvd & the Des Plaines river).

**Victory Camp**-At Ft. Dearborn during WW II. Older Scouts assisted local farmers with cultivating and harvesting war crops.

**Camp Doddridge**-A weekend camp north of Libertyville, IL. During the summer of 1937, and possibly other years, mess hall facilities with prepared meals were available on weekends in July & August. A Winter Camp was available Dec 27th through Jan 1st.

**Camp Harrison**-A weekend camp near Thornton, IL for South Shore District (1937).



## THE ORDER OF THE ARROW AT OWASIPPE

Carroll Edson, co-founder of the WWW in Philadelphia, became the Field Scout Executive of the South Shore District in 1/1921.

That same year Edson became Director of Camp James E. West and introduced the WWW to Camp James E West.

During the mid-1920's, lodges were chartered to the 5 Owasippe Camps. They were: MOQUA-Camp James E. West, WAKAY-Camp Dan Beard, CHECAUGAU-Camp Checaugau, BLACKHAWK-Camp Blackhawk and GARRISON-Camp McDonald. When the camp based lodges consolidated the single lodge chartered to the Chicago Council was named Owasippe. The districts which had been affiliated with the camp lodges became chapters and adopted the former lodge names. It has been speculated that the name Moqua, from the original lodge founded by Edson, was deleted from National records with the advent of a numbering system for lodges.

In the early years, lodges were not numbered as they are today. The camp lodges were later numbered by charter dates as 7, 13, 21, 23 & 25. The names above correspond to the numbers except the name Moqua was replaced by Owasippe.



MOQUA LODGE

Camp West

South Shore Dist.



WAKAY LODGE

Camp Dan Beard

Northshore Dist.



CHECAUGAU LODGE

Camp Checaugau

Northwest Dist.



BLACKHAWK LODGE

Camp Blackhawk

West Side Dist.



GARRISON LODGE

Camp McDonald

South West Dist.

*Note; the badges shown above do not represent lodges, but are shown to help illustrate the fact that Camp Owasippe once had 5 lodges.*

E. Umer Goodman, the Scout Executive in Philadelphia when the WWW was founded served as Chicago Scout Executive, 1927-1931, he brought Alfred C. Nichols with him from Philadelphia. Nichols had been the 4th National Chief and served the Chicago Council for many years as Council Activities Director and Chief Camp Director. Founded by Edson, furthered by Goodman and shepherded by Nichols, the WWW had a strong foundation and thrived at Owasippe and in the Chicago Council. The 1933 National Meeting of the WWW was held at Owasippe. When the five camp based lodges consolidated in the late 1920's they become five active Chapters with strong programs and traditions. The original five chapters were more active with a larger membership than most lodges during this era. During the 1930's the WWW was transformed from a camp based program to more of a district operations program. Over the years with district and chapter expansion and sub-division, the traditions and programs of the five early lodges and chapters has, for the most part, been lost. There is no known memorabilia from the camp based lodges, although membership cards are thought to exist. The Owasippe O of this era was the emblem of the Honor Camper and all members of the WWW were Honor Campers. There is considerable memorabilia from the early 5 chapters and later chapters.

By 1961, 19 chapters were chartered to the following districts. Arrowhead-Ganschpuck, Austin-Kannani, Burr Oak-Wiququoak, Calumet-Nimbau-N' Peshawag, Cicero-Uteney, Greater Roseland-Miami, Indian Boundry-Keneu, Iroquois-Onondaga, Lake Shore-Kitmachque, Lincoln Park-Ama Taka, Marquette-Flaming Feather, Midwest-Illiniwek, Portage-Na Ju Amochol, South Central-Mon Damin, South Shore-Matoka, Southwest-Kachina, Stockyards-Allowilek, Trailblazer-Mikanishkote, Tri Ridge-Meti-Gomez. *I can not identify the chapters of Ft. Dearborn & Southtown District in this era.*

## STAFF AT OWASIPPE

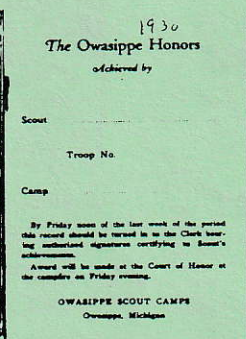
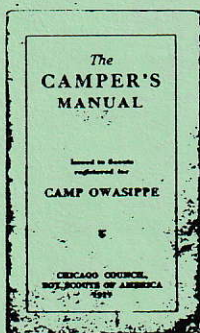
Thousands of young men and adults have served on Owasippe staff. It was a common practice in the 1940's and 50's, and possibly earlier, for camp staff's to develop their own distinctive forms of identification. This usually took the form of neckerchiefs although jackets and slides were also used. Some items are clearly identified by lettering and a date, others are simply a certain color or type of neckerchief. Because of the very small number of items issued, I have not attempted to classify them and have only identified the red embroidered round badges which were used for the entire reservation staff.



## COLLECTING OWASIPPE

Everyone who has ever earned his numeral or O could be considered an Owaspippe collector. If you don't think they are collectors, just ask if they would consider parting with them. It is a testament to the camp and program that so many individuals still consider their Owaspippe memorabilia among their most cherished possessions. Fortunately for the collector, Owaspippe material was produced in large quantities and with some effort material can be acquired. The problem is focusing on what to collect. A type set of badges probably has the most appeal for the average collector. Camp badges after the 1940 period are generally available in the collecting community. The numeral collection is more challenging because, unlike the camp badge, they were never traded and few people ever had duplicates. It is not uncommon for individuals with advanced collections to be missing one or two post 1940 segments. None are more scarce than others, just difficult to locate. The pre 1940 "earned" badges are much scarcer than later badges. Because they were earned, individuals almost never received more than 1. Equally obscure are the early numerals. The most challenging pieces in an emblem collection are the early 1920 cut out felts and the mid 1920's chief emblem with colored borders.

Besides badges there are many other items that are collectible from Owaspippe. Campers Manual's from 1918 through the 60's. Promotion brochures, many with color covers and tailored for the individual camps. There exists a series of camp promotion pins



### CAMP HONORS of 1939

ACHIEVED BY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Insert full name in ink.)

Troop No. \_\_\_\_\_ Camp \_\_\_\_\_

BY NOON OF THE LAST FRIDAY of the period you should turn this in to the camp clerk. Be sure to have all the signatures necessary to show the Honor you have achieved.

Awards will be made at the Commendal Campfire on the last evening of the period. Be sure to wear your Numeral and "O".

★

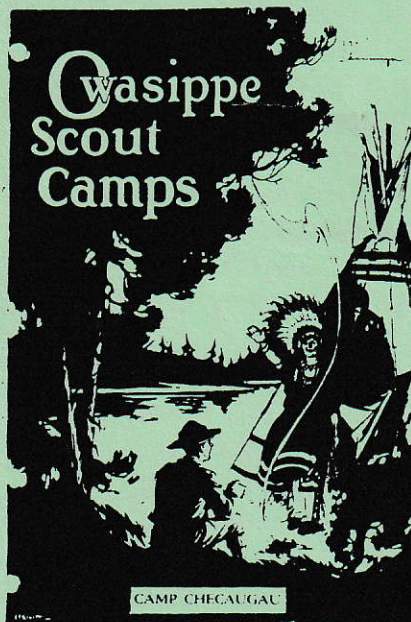
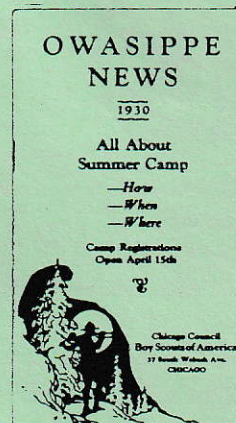
OWASIPPE SCOUT CAMPS  
Chicago Council of the Boy Scouts of America



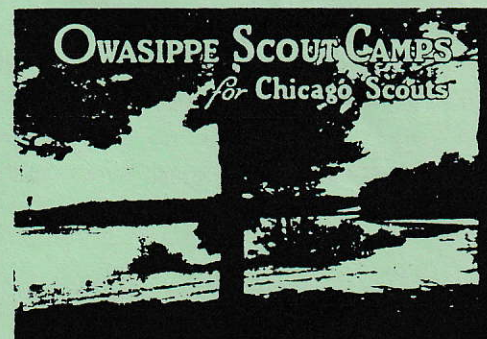
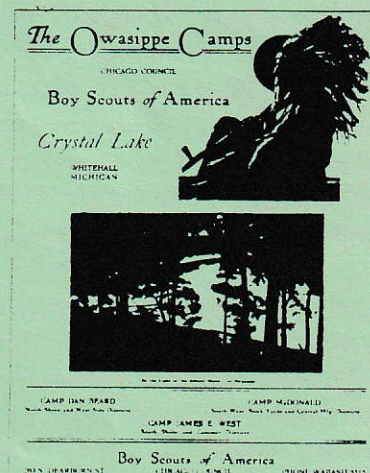
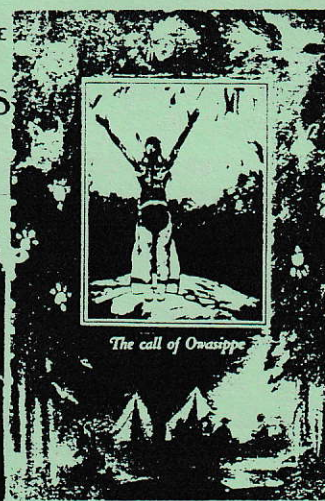
**O**wasippe  
**W**oodcraft  
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**S**wimming  
**I**ndian Lore  
**P**lay  
**P**leasant Quarters  
**E**ats! (Oh, Boy!)



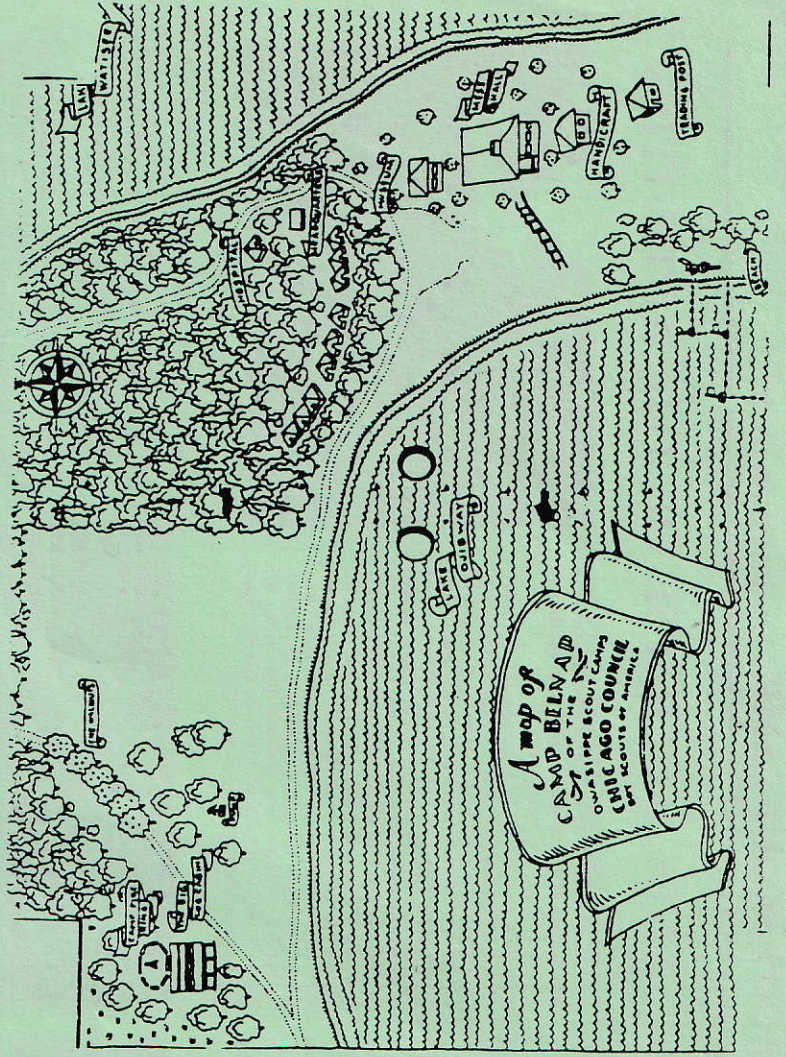
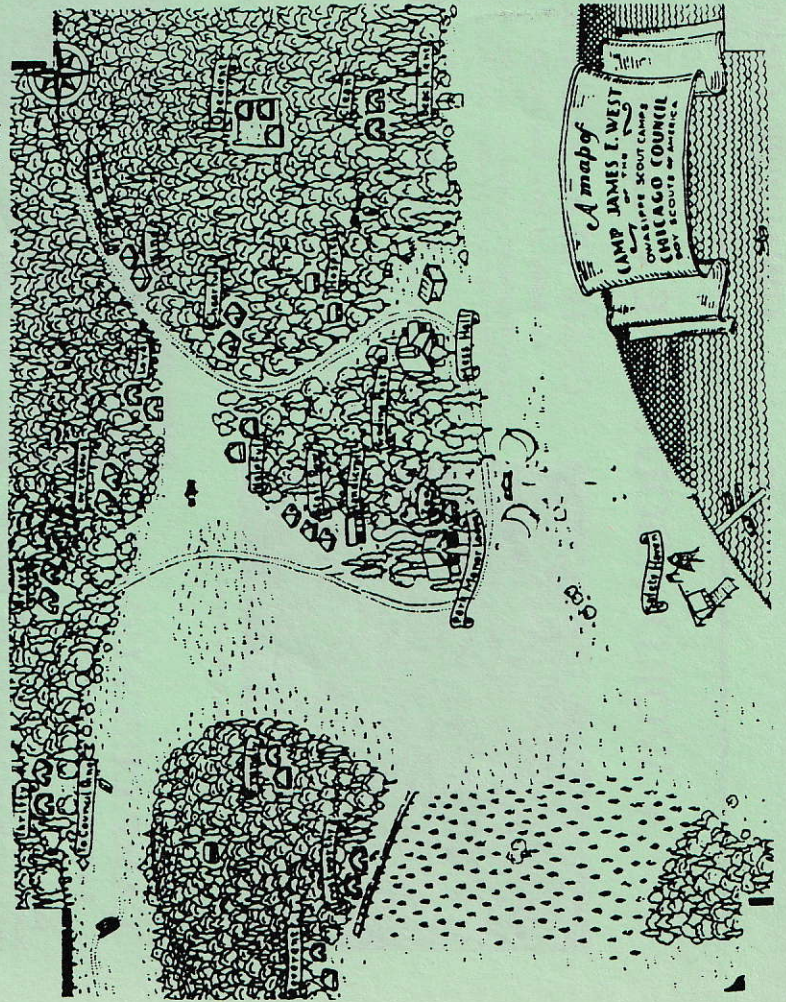
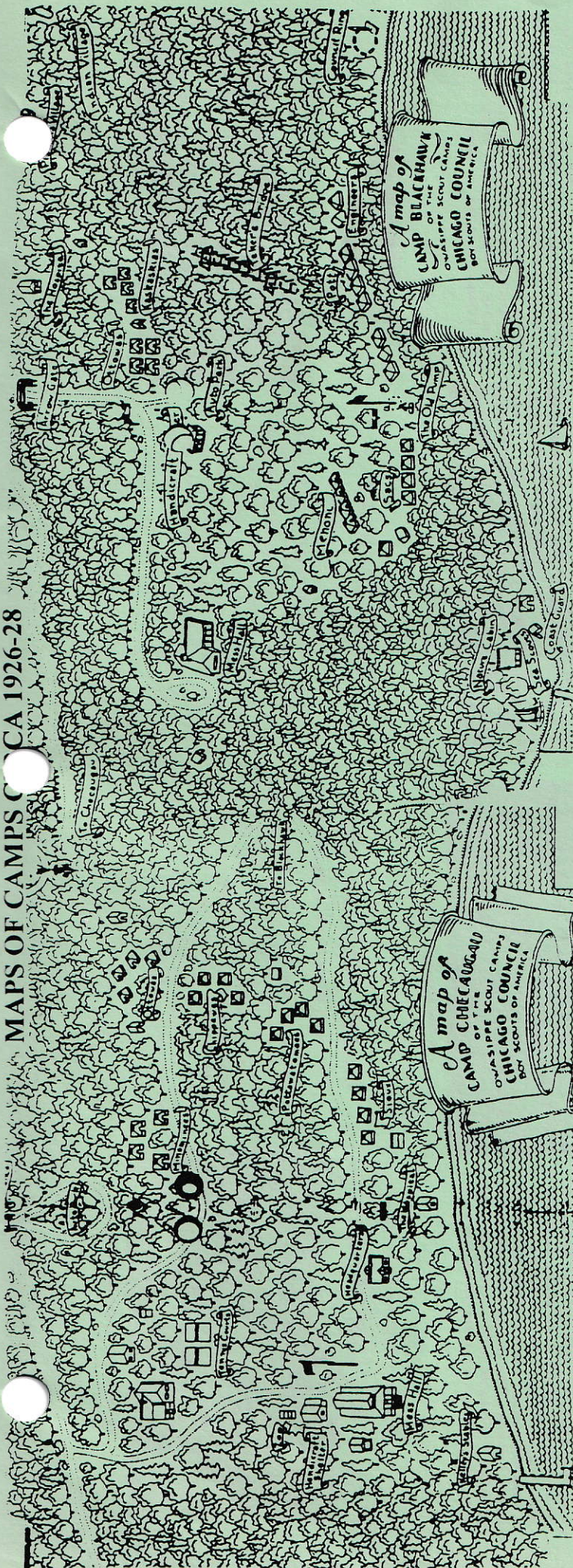
1920  
Chicago Council Boy Scouts of America



### THE TWENTY FIRST SEASON OF THE Owaspippe Scout Camps



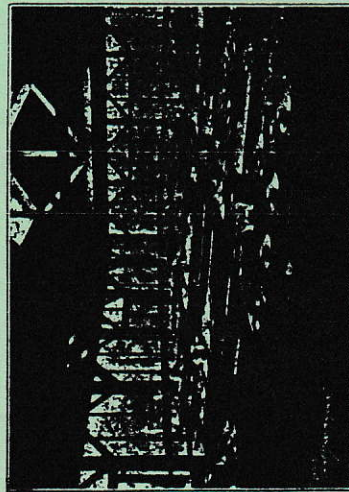






# A WORD ABOUT THE CAMPS

# AND A GLIMPSE OF THE ACTIVITIES



The Mess Hall Interior at Camp Blackhawk

## CAMP BLACKHAWK

For Scouts of West Side District

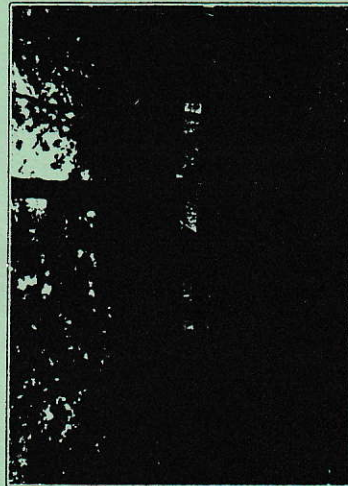
Camp Blackhawk, situated on the south shore of Big Blue Lake, is for Scouts of the West Side District.

The Camp has been built on a group of small hills. To the east is the dining hall and offices; in the center by the Lake is the Headquarters. On the surrounding hill tops are the camp groups. In the valley of ferns is located the naturecraft lodge. The swimming beach and pier command a view of the shoreline for miles. All of the camp buildings are of logs. Not a tree has been removed from the original forest except where absolutely necessary. Camp Blackhawk is truly a woods camp.

## CAMP CHECAUGAU

For Scouts of the Northwest District

Camp Checaugau, on Big Blue Lake, is for Scouts of the Northwest District. It is situated on a high bluff overlooking the Lake. Formerly a summer hotel, the buildings have been converted into a beautiful, large dining room and other camp buildings. Wendell Lodge, a most wonderful log cabin, serves as Headquarters and library building. The tent groups surround a miniature bowl-shaped valley, giving all seclusion, yet easy of access to every part of the camp.



A Camp Site—Camp Checaugau

## CAMP DAN BEARD

For Scouts of the North Shore District

Entering its nineteenth season, Camp Dan Beard is the original camp of this wonderful group of camps, and little more need be said. Located high above beautiful Crystal Lake, its capacious dining room and Headquarters building surrounded by tent groups, parade ground, unique campercraft lot and "Sleepy Hollow" below, it is indeed a hallowed spot for old campers and a promise of happy days for new ones.



The Diving Board at Camp Dan Beard

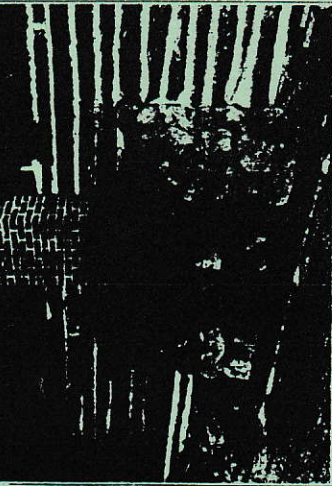
## CAMP McDONALD

For Scouts of the South Central and Southwest Districts

"Old Camp Mac" is also one of the older camps. The famous "Merit Badge Lodge" was built on this site in 1916. Towering a hundred feet above the camp are the Crystal Lake Pines, magnificent specimens of the old forest. The buildings consist of a large dining room, Headquarters in the Lodge, handicraft shelter, the blockhouse used as a museum, and the hospital building. The tent sites are scattered back in the woods across a level plateau which finally curves down to Austin Lake. Here between these two lakes with her flags flying on a cable suspended between two gigantic pine trees, in the spot which means so much to Scouts from the Southwestern section of the city.



The Block-House at Camp McDonald



The Cozy Fireplace at Camp West Cabin

## CAMP BELNAP

For Scouts of Douglas Division

High up on a sunny plateau between two beautiful lakes, stands Camp Belnap. With its log dining room, administration building and handicraft building on one side and with its tent groups on the other, little more could be desired for an ideal camp site. Miles of woodland surround the camp; innumerable lakes and creeks are within strolling distance and beckon explorers. Lake Ojibway provides a splendid swimming hole.



The Waterfront at Camp Belnap

## CAMP JAMES E. WEST

For Scouts of the Calumet and South Shore Districts

Camp West, located on Crystal Lake, has for many years been the camping home for Scouts of the Calumet and South Shore Districts. Beautifully located in a valley of pine trees, Camp West is truly an ideal camping spot. The dining room is spacious. Park Manor Lodge, a log cabin, houses the Headquarters and indoor recreational activities. The handicraft shelter, and Trading Post are near by with the tent groups on hilltops and across the valley.